



ROBERT K. PAGANI
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

**REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2005**

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VOL _____ PAGE _____

RICHARD J. CLEARY
ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
VAUGHN E. GERBER
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO

Board of Finance Members Present: Robert K. Pagani-Chairman, Richard J. Cleary, Vaughn E. Gerber, Mark A. Joyse, Barry C. Pinto

Board of Finance Members Absent: Robert J. Clements

Others Present: N. DiCorleto-Fin Off, D. Milanovich-First Sel, N. Way, M. Leighton, M. Stupinski, P. Charter-Selectmen, P. Michaud-DPW Dir, R. Tedford-P&R Dir, S. Phillips-Library Dir, R. Packman-Supt, D. Roberson-Chmn BOE, M. Blanchette-BOE, A. Littizzio-Dir Bus Svs BOE, W. Konieczny-Sgt, G. Daigle, J. Strieber, P. Hany-EVAC, C. Pippin, D. Wright-CLFD, M. Varney, J. Turner-EVFD, Several Residents, Journal Inquirer, Hartford Courant and Reminder reporters.

Chairman Robert Pagani called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (GERBER) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING OF MARCH 15, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (GERBER) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING OF MARCH 22, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING OF MARCH 29, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (PINTO) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF APRIL 12, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (GERBER) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET DELIBERATION OF APRIL 26, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (PINTO) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET DELIBERATION OF APRIL 28, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET DELIBERATION OF MAY 23, 2005 AS WRITTEN.

Budget Deliberations

The following revenue increases were discussed. Increase the 04/05 current year levy estimate by \$160,000, interest and lien fees by \$6,000, FEMA disaster estimate by \$13,000, and interest on earnings by \$17,000. For fiscal year 05-06 State Education cost sharing grants increase by \$77,676, State Property Forest by \$583 and Town Aid Roads by \$43,279. The total of revenue increase is \$317,538.

Expense reductions discussed were 04/05 fire hydrants account \$15,000, sanitary landfill \$25,000, social security estimate \$2,000, insurance \$35,000 and the Board of Education will give back \$75,000 for 04/05 for a total of \$152,000 in expense reductions.

The net change to the budget is \$469,538.

Chairman Pagani presented two other reductions he would like to discuss; the Center Fire Dept. water shuttle for \$11,500 and the fertilization of the playing fields for \$19,500.

Mr. Krieski of Newell Hill Road told the Board that he wanted to see the fluff cut from the budget and that he could not afford an increase at this time.

Mr. Leighton, Birchview Drive stated that he agreed with the chairman that the town is at the mercy of the voters. He would like to see information disseminated to the public outlining what will be cut if the budget doesn't pass.

Mr. Milanovich stated that there is no money for a mailing and that the Ellington Connection had only enough funding for three mailings last year. He was pleased at the

turnout for the meeting tonight, and stated that he doesn't know what the target is for the budget passage.

Mark Maciolek, Main Street, feels that education and the library should be priority for funding.

Mr. Wehr, 1 Meghan Circle, asked why if the enrollment increased 2%, the faculty increase is 8-9%. He wanted to know where the differences in the increases were. Mr. Littizzio stated that there is an additional 4% in new positions. Mr. Milanovich stated that this budget is the accumulation of two years worth of new positions. Last year no new positions came to fruition due to budget reductions. Supt. Packman stated that mandated programs drive some of these new positions also.

Steve Marvonek, Buff Cap Rd, stated that the BOE has increased 15% over the last two years and that it looks like the general government received 7% over the last two years. Mr. Milanovich stated that the general government's increase is in the debt service and that the operating budgets had a decrease to offset this.

Christine Daigle, Dogwood Lane, stated that the salaries and benefits are not negotiable at this time and that when you take them out of consideration, there is not much left in the budget. Programs will be eliminated and equipment will not be maintained.

E. Boothroyd, Hare Rd, stated that oil prices are going sky high when the supplies dwindle.

Mr. Charter, Somers Rd asked if there are any final numbers on the High School project yet and if there are any funds to offset the ADA compliance field work. Mr. Milanovich told him that the ADA work has to be done to receive the state reimbursement for the project. He also stated that there may be a small amount left over but the project is pretty much going to break even.

Mr. Wehr stated that maybe if some of the teachers were laid off, the unions would get a message. Mr. Joyse stated that only the cheapest teachers would be the ones to be laid off, and Mr. Pagani stated that it has been his experience that the unions don't really care.

Mr. Milanovich stated that he felt the water shuttle was a good use of funds. It is a lot less expensive than a new tanker. The fertilization is needed because it will cost a lot more to replace or repair the fields than to fertilize them.

Mr. Joyse stated that with the \$469,538 change, the budget increase is 4.5%.

Mr. Burns, Windsorville Rd, stated that he didn't feel the sprinkler system on the Windermere School field was an efficient use of funds. He would like the budget to be brought under control.

Mrs. Willis, 38 Crystal Lake Rd, felt that the town is overbuilding and that the new high school is way over the top for Ellington.

Richard Neal, 17 Blueberry Circle, stated that the school building was way above what he felt is needed and he cannot afford it any longer.

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO REMOVE THE WATER SHUTTLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,500 FROM THE REDUCTIONS LIST.

**VOTE: CLEARY, GERBER, JOYSE, PINTO-AYES
PAGANI-NAY**

Mr. Joyse felt this is a public safety issue and should not be cut. Mr. Cleary agreed.

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO REMOVE THE FERTILIZATION OF THE FIELDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,500 FROM THE REDUCTIONS LIST.

**VOTE: CLEARY, GERBER, JOYSE – AYES
PAGANI, PINTO – NAY**

Mr. Michaud stated that the reason the fertilization is important is that none of the fields get any rest and that the fertilization is what is saving them from destruction.

Chairman Pagani asked for additional reductions. Mr. Cleary stated that he had entertained the notion of cutting \$75,000 from the plan of development since he has not seen any enthusiasm from the Planning & Zoning Commission as yet. Mr. Joyse stated that it is worth keeping and that it is an investment in the future. Mr. Pagani stated earlier that he would not be in favor of cutting this item. Mr. Milanovich stated that this is a necessary tool and that if the town does not do this, the developers will roll over the town. He stated that Ellington is not business friendly and needs to become so to survive.

The Chairman called a recess at 9:45 pm.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 10:00 pm.

The budget as it stands is 34.2 mills which is a 1.5 mill increase or 4.61% increase.

Approval of Fiscal Year Budget 2005-06

MOVED (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED THAT THE SUM OF MONEY RECOMMENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-06 IS \$37,682,753. ALL EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANTS (ECS) ARE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

TO RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 9,133,165
REDEMPTION OF DEBT	3,191,111
CONTINGENCY FUND	125,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION	24,188,655
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND	<u>1,044,822</u>
	\$ 37,682,753

TO RECOMMEND TO A TOWN MEETING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,044,822 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-06 FOR THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND, SAID APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT	75,000
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	101,760
ROAD OVERLAY	200,000
TOWN HALL OFFICE RENOVATIONS	25,000
REVALUATION	62,700
EVAC-REPLACEMENT AMBULANCE	160,000
EVFD-WATER SHUTTLE EQUIPMENT	11,500
BOE-HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS/ADA COMPLIANCE	143,862
BOE-CLS RENOVATION-WELLS	<u>265,000</u>
	\$1,044,822
LESS FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS	
STATE GRANT-CLS WELLS (55%)	145,750
STATE GRANT-LOCIP	99,695
AMBULANCE FEE PROGRAM	<u>160,000</u>
	405,445
NET COST TO TOWN	\$ 639,377

Adjournment

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (PINTO) TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:05.

Submitted by Lori Smith Lori Smith, Clerk

ELLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE

BUDGET DOCUMENT FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

APPROVED AT BOF MEETING-June 7, 2005

INCREASES/REDUCTIONS

Account	Sub	Account Name
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REVENUE INCREASES(REDUCTIONS)

FY04-05	Current Year Levy-Estimated	160,000
FY04-05	Interest and Lien Fees-Estimated	6,000
FY04-05	FEMA Disaster-Estimated	13,000
FY04-05	Interest on Earnings-Estimated	17,000
FY05-06	State-Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	77,676
FY05-06	State-State Property Forest	583
FY05-06	State-Town Road Aid	43,279

TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES:

317,538

[illegible]

321	FY04-05	Public Fire Protection-Estimated	15,000
450	FY04-05	Sanitary Landfill-FY04-05 Estimated	25,000
930	FY04-05	Social Security-Estimated	2,000
950	FY04-05	Insurance-Estimated	35,000
1200	FY04-05	Board of Education	75,000

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TOTAL EXPENSE REDUCTIONS

152,000

469,538